



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2009
May/June

Plants with Animal Names

Did you ever think about how a plant gets its name? The following puzzles reveal a flowering plant with an animal's name. Fill in the blanks and discover the answers.

1



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The other name is wild comfrey. It grows on wooded slopes or bottomlands. The sky-blue to greenish white flowers look like small forget-me-nots. The basal leaves remind you of the above answer.

3



+



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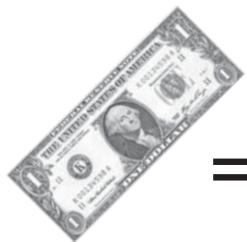


Look for these native plants along streams, spring branches, ponds, and low wet woods throughout the Ozarks. Its soft pink flowers bloom from June to September. The flower resembles the grinning animal in this puzzle.

2



+



=



Another name for this flower is wild geranium. It grows in open woods and shaded areas, blooming from April til June. The fruit resembles the answer to this puzzle.

Explore Missouri outdoors and discover plants that have leaves, flowers, or fruit that resemble animals. It is amazing.

Trana Madsen, Naturalist

Answers:

1) Hound's tongue 2) Crane's bill 3) Monkey flower

Volunteer Lobby Exhibit

~May~

Nature's Needlers Quilt Exhibit

Nature's Needlers, our Runge quilting group, is displaying their incredible creations from the 2007-2008 year. Each month a quilt block relating to nature is selected and a program presented on the chosen pattern. This unique group learns about sewing and Missouri nature simultaneously. You will be excited and inspired by their creations.

~June~

Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center anytime during June to view the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries from this contest.



Congratulations

Welcome to the Volunteer Class of 2009

April 2nd was graduating day for our newest group of Runge Volunteer Naturalists. Thirteen adults and six teenagers were added to our volunteer team for a total of 61 volunteers. These individuals participated in eight weeks of training and are eager to begin helping you enjoy the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of Missouri. Please say hello to the newest members of the Runge Team when you see them.

Volunteer Milestones

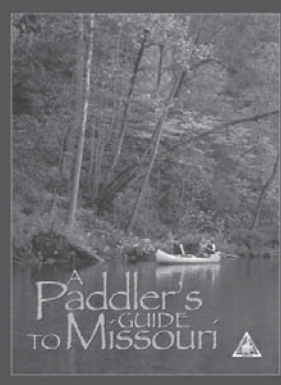
The following volunteers were recognized at the March meeting for their contributions to the programs at Runge:

Becca Harbison – 200 hours
Stu Perry – 200 hours
Jan Griffin – 1000 hours
Kathy Wildhaber – 1000 hours

GO GREEN... To receive your newsletter electronically, simply go to the Runge Nature Center's web page at <mdc.mo.gov/2344> and sign up. You will receive a follow-up email reminder that you will need to respond to in order to activate your enrollment. A bimonthly email reminder will be sent with a link to the Habitat Happenings online. Also, notify the nature center to remove your name from our general delivery mailing list. You can email your request to <Donna.Wankum@mdc.mo.gov>

Nature Shop News

May/June featured item



20% OFF

Discounted Price

\$4.80
plus tax

Heritage card discount
does not apply.

Whether you thrill to the challenges of Ozark white water or enjoy a lazy float down a prairie stream, you'll appreciate the Department's comprehensive guide to paddling in Missouri.



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

NEW!

Reservations required.

When you make your reservation, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns' program to help us better prepare for the program. Thank you.

Stream Team Clean-up

Tuesday, May 19– 6:30-8:00PM (make your reservation between May 1 and May 14)

Dear CKC Member,

You are invited to our annual stream team clean-up on Wear's Creek. Let's wade in the water, pick up trash, and scoop for "live" aquatic insects. These "bugs" are important messengers. They indicate if our stream is healthy or not. Then take a break with me and drink our famous MUDDY FLOAT!

P.S. Don't forget to wear old clothes and shoes to get wet and muddy.

Naturally,
BUBBA the tree frog

Archery

Tuesday, June 16– 6:30-8:30PM (make your reservation between June 1 and June 11)

Aim for safety and FUN!

Reach for a lifetime sport to hunt, compete, or enjoy as a hobby!

Connect yourself to nature through an outdoor skill.

Here you will learn the 11 steps to archery success.

Equipment preparedness is essential for effective shooting.

Remember to sign up for this program.

You can do this, regardless of age or gender!

This program is based on the National Archery in the Schools Program. Don't miss this opportunity to aim for the target! **Space is limited.**

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, May 19th** and **Tuesday, June 16th**.

Habitat Happenings



CAMP F.I.R.E.

Fun In Resource Exploration



Let's go CAMPING June 1-5

Ready to get FIRED up about being outdoors this summer? This camp is the perfect opportunity to explore nature by learning and participating in a variety of outdoor adventures. **CAMP F.I.R.E.** is a day camp focused on helping you to learn how to have fun in our natural world. This year's camp will focus on CAMPING!

An important component of **CAMP F.I.R.E.** is teaching children outdoor skills to pass on to the significant adult(s) in their lives. This year's **CAMP F.I.R.E.** program will involve an overnight camp out. Previous to the camp out, the children's important adult(s) will be invited to participate in a variety of activities. For further details, please call 573.526.5544.

Date: June 1-5

Time: Monday-Wednesday 9:00AM-3:00PM
Thursday 3:00PM – Friday, 8:00AM

Who: **CAMP F.I.R.E.** is open to youth 9 through 12 years of age.

How: A completed permission form is your registration for the camp. Registrations will be accepted **through May 11th**. Use the enclosed form, call us at 573.526.5544 and we will mail one to you, or visit our web page at <<http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/runge>>.

Limit: **CAMP F.I.R.E.** is limited to 30 youth. Due to the popularity of this camp, a lottery drawing will be held to determine participants. Successful campers will be notified by May 15th.



Area Management Underway

If you are a regular walker on the nature center trails, you have probably seen and heard a lot of work happening on the grounds this winter. If you have not been walking regularly, you might be surprised this spring with some of the changes along the trails. Our grounds crew has been busy with TSI – Timber Stand Improvement – and renovation of the marsh area. Large mulch piles, open areas where previously there was timber, and a scooped out, almost bare and dry marsh are the most noticeable signs of the work. What you might not see are the more than 750 seedlings planted on the area and the work that is being done in the marsh to hold water. Some of our area management is quite visible and a lot of it is not. We are always happy to share our plans with you if you are curious about what is happening on the area. Just stop by and ask or give us a call. In the meantime, we hope to see you on the trails!



Mixed-up Plants

Directions: Unscramble the following names of plants to reveal more plants with animal names. Answers are below.

1. HELTENSAP OTOF

2. OXLFEVOG

3. EENTRKTAALS EATSRM

4. FTXLAADO

5. CALNDIAR WELORF

6. EBE MABL

7. OGOODDW ERET

8. RRPWIETDSO

9. OBFLAUF SRAGS

10. LUBEYTRTF DWEE

Answers:

1. Elephant's Foot 2. Foxglove 3. Rattlesnake Master
4. Toadflax 5. Cardinal Flower 6. Bee Balm 7. Dogwood
8. Tree 9. Spiderwort 10. Butterfly Weed

Hunter Education Courses

This 10-hour certification course is required of every hunter born after January 1, 1967. These courses will be held at the Runge Nature Center. To make your reservation, contact the Columbia Regional Office at 573.884.6861. For additional courses visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/huntered/>.

May 21 6:00–9:00PM
May 22 6:00–10:00PM
May 23 8:00AM–Noon

July 23 6:00–9:00PM
July 24 6:00–10:00PM
July 25 8:00AM–Noon



Question:

Who are those people in the orange vests at the front gate to the nature center?

Answer:

Those people are Runge Volunteers and Staff who make up our public use survey crew. Beginning in March of 2009 and continuing through February 2010, we are conducting exit interviews of nature center visitors at random times and on random days. The information we collect from these interviews will be used to help us plan better programs and events and will help us focus on those areas that you, our visitors, tell us are important. We hope that you will choose to participate in this survey if asked. Repeat visitors give us important data, so participate often! It only takes a few minutes and we appreciate your help. The people in the orange vests thank you!

MAY EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8AM on May 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

Join the Nature's Needlers group from 1:00-3:00PM every Sunday in May as they demonstrate quilting techniques.

10 Sunday 1:00–2:30PM

Animal Babies and their Moms

Ages: All

Mothers and Grandmothers, bring your treasured little ones for a Mother's Day treat as we read a book about animal babies and their moms, learn why we should leave animal babies alone, and take a leisurely, guided walk along one of our trails to explore nature with your children. No reservations required.

13 Wednesday 6:00-7:30PM

15 Friday 6:00-7:30PM

Map and Compass

Ages: All

What is a topo map?

How do you navigate with a compass? Learn the basics of using a map and compass during this workshop. Bring your compass or use one of ours, and be prepared to go outside. Reservations required.



14 Thursday 7:00-8:00PM

Birds of Puerto Rico and Missouri

Ages: Adults

Dr. John Faaborg of the University of Missouri will give a talk on the decline of winter birds in Puerto Rico and the implications this has for Missouri birds. This program is sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

16 Saturday depart at 8:00AM return Sunday, May 17 at 5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club & Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

The Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers will combine to offer an overnight trip to hike at **Prairie State Park**. We will see American bison roaming freely on Missouri's largest remaining prairie and hike trails in a prairie so undisturbed that it contains four state natural areas each recognized for its exceptional natural qualities.

Runge will provide transportation and hike leaders. Participating hikers will pay for their own motel room and food. Lodging will be at Super 8 Motel in Lamar, MO (417.682.6888 or 1.877.477.8004). First, call Runge Nature Center to make your hiking reservation and then contact the Super 8 Motel to make your lodging reservation. Reservations required.

16 Saturday 10:00AM

Story tree

Ages: All

Spring is in the air-

Birds, bugs, and bee's are everywhere.

Story books with pictures and words

All waiting to be explored.

Join us at the story tree

To read about those

Birds, bugs, and bee's.

Then take a walk outside

To see where they might hide.

No reservations required.

21 Thursday 10:30AM–Noon
or 6:00–7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

The attic window border frames a raccoon, this month's block-within-a-block topic. We will learn fascinating facts and fiction about the opportunistic and very clever masked bandit. Reservations required.

For the little ones

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, May 23 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, May 26 – 11:00AM

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, May 9 – 10:00AM

Thursday, May 21 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! Little Acorns PLUS. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide ages of your children.**

Tuesday, May 26 – 1:00PM

Slugs and Snails

A silvery trail is left by a slow moving snail. A slippery slug is slimier than a bug. Slip into the small world of these fascinating creatures this month. Reservations required.



Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together.

JUNE EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **June 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

For the little ones

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Tuesday, June 9 – 1:00PM

Friday, June 19 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, June 13 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, June 23 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! Little Acorns PLUS. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide ages of your children.**

Thursday, June 11 – 1:00PM

Wednesday, June 17 – 10:00AM

Fish Is Fish

"... and fish is fish and that's that!" So writes Leo Lionni in his classic book, *Fish Is Fish*. They are not frogs. They are not birds. Fish is fish and we will explore their watery world this month. Reservations required.

6 Saturday 10:00–11:30AM



National Trails Day:

Take a Hike!

Ages: Families with children 8 years and older

Celebrate National Trails Day by going on a guided hike along Runge's trails to visit our natural communities. We will hike into a forest, explore a glade, visit a marsh, and view tall prairie grasses all on one trail! Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No reservations required.

13 Saturday 8:00AM–5:30PM

Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

When French trappers and traders explored Missouri's rivers in the late 1600's, they named a river in southwest Missouri Pomme de Terre ("apple of the earth") for some plants that resembled potatoes that grew on its banks. Come with us to **Pomme de Terre State Park**, where we'll hike two rocky peninsulas of what is now Pomme de Terre lake. We'll begin with the **Cedar Bluff Trail** (2 miles.) After lunch, we'll find the remnants of a Native American cairn on the **Indian Point Trail** (3 miles.) Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

14 Sunday 1:00–3:00PM

Missing Naturalist Mystery

Ages: All

One of our naturalists has swiped something from Runge and is hiding on the trails with it. Visit the front desk between 1:00PM and 3:00PM to receive a set of clues to find her. Come dressed for the weather. The trail will be stroller accessible. No reservations required.

18 Thursday 10:30AM–Noon
and 6:00–7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Time: Ages: 18 years and older

A four-patch corner border encloses a coyote, this month's topic in the block-within-a-block series. Join us as we learn about this intelligent and adaptable animal. Reservations required.

20 Saturday 10:00AM–4:00PM

All About Bees

Ages: All

Refer to back of newsletter for additional details. No reservations required.

21 Sunday 1:00–4:00PM

More Than Just Bees

Ages: All

Refer to back of newsletter for additional details. No reservations required.

21 Sunday 2:00PM

Story tree

Ages: All

Spring is in the air-
Birds, bugs, and bee's are everywhere.
Story books with pictures and words
All waiting to be explored.

Join us at the story tree
To read about those
Birds, bugs, and bee's.
Then take a walk outside
To see where they might hide.

No reservations required.

23 Tuesday 5:30–8:30PM

Archery for Women

Ages: 18 years and older

Archery is a lifetime sport, enjoyed by all. This is an opportunity for women of various ages to learn a new skill or perhaps revisit an old one. We will provide all necessary equipment and instructors for an evening of shooting. This program is based on the National Archery in the Schools Program. Reservations required.



24 Wednesday 8:00AM–5:30PM

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

This month, we return to **Lake of the Ozarks State Park**. This park is Missouri's largest with over 17,000 acres to explore and enjoy. We'll hike a portion of the **Trail of Four Winds** (approximately 10 miles), which winds through oak-hickory forests and provides views of the lake, an old quarry, and a glimpse of Grand Glaize Marsh. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.



National Pollinator Week

June 22 - 28

Kick it off by visiting the nature center for a variety of activities. Bring your family and friends.

Saturday, June 20

All About Bees

10:00AM-Noon & 2:00-4:00PM

Lobby activities featuring bees, hive, and flowers

Noon

Movie and Honeybee craft

2:00PM

Program – “The Special Life of a Honeybee”

Sunday, June 21

More Than Just Bees

1:00-4:00PM

Lobby Activities about moths, hummingbirds, and other pollinators!

2:00PM

Pollinator Walk—Visit our gardens and see some pollinators in action!

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

Habitat Happenings
Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



Permission Form



CAMP F.I.R.E. 2009

Fun In Resource Exploration

June 1-5, 2009

CAMP F.I.R.E. is limited to 30 youth (9 through 12 years of age). Applications will be accepted **through May 11th**. Due to the popularity of this CAMP, a lottery drawing will be held to determine participants. Successful campers will be notified by ____ **Phone** or ____ **e-mail** (please check one) by May 15th.

I give (name) _____ (age) _____,

(name) _____ (age) _____,

(name) _____ (age) _____ permission to participate in CAMP F.I.R.E. sponsored by Runge Conservation Nature Center, June 1st–3rd 9:00AM–3:00PM and June 4th 3:00PM to June 5th 8:00AM. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to you prior to the beginning of camp.

Please list any special considerations including allergies or medications for your child(ren) that our staff need to know about.

I understand that in case of an emergency a nature center staff member will contact (name) _____, who can be reached at (phone #) _____.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Note: Full participation by the camper is expected and parent/caregiver participation on Thursday evening is required.

Return completed application to:

Runge Conservation Nature Center
CAMP F.I.R.E.
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65109